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1899

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Composed, May 1899.

Sir Wm. Topaz M'Gonagall Bart.

THE WRECK OF THE STEAMER "STELLA."

A NEW POEM

BY SIR WILLIAM TOPAZ M'GONAGALL,

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'Twas in the month of March and in the year of 1899,
Which will be remembered for a very long time ;
The wreck of the steamer "Stella" that was wrecked on the
Casquet Rocks,
By losing her bearings in a fog, and received some terrible
shocks.

The "Stella" was bound for the Channel Islands on a holiday
trip,
And a number of passengers were resolved not to let the
chance slip ;
And the hearts of the passengers felt light and gay,
As the "Stella" steamed out of the London Docks without delay.

The vessel left London at a quarter-past eleven,
With a full passenger list and a favourable wind from heaven ;
And all went well until late in the afternoon,
When all at once a mist arose, alas ! too soon.

And as the Channel Islands were approached a fog set in,
Then the passengers began to be afraid and made a chattering
din ;
And about half-past three o'clock the fog settled down,
Which caused Captain Reeks and the passengers with fear
to frown.

And brave Captain Reeks felt rather nervous and discontent,
Because to him it soon became quite evident ;
And from his long experience he plainly did see
That the fog was increasing in great density.

Still the "Stella" sailed on at a very rapid rate,
And, oh, heaven ! rushed headlong on to her fate,
And passed o'er the jagged rocks without delay,
And her side was ripped open : Oh ! horror and dismay !

Then all the passengers felt the terrible shock,
As the "Stella" stuck fast upon the first ledge of rock ;
And they rushed to the deck in wild alarm,
While some of them cried : "Oh ! God protect us from harm."

Then men clasped wives and daughters, and friends shook
hands,
And unmoved Captain Reeks upon the bridge stands ;
And he shouted, "Get out the boats without delay !"
Then the sailors and officers began to work without dismay.

Again Captain Reeks cried in a manly clear voice,
"Let the women and children be our first choice !"
Then the boats were loaded in a speedy way,
And with brave seamen to navigate them that felt no dismay.

Then the "Stella" began rapidly for to settle down,
And Captain Reeks gave his last order without a frown,
Shouting, "Men, for yourselves, you'll better look out !"
Which they did, needing no second bidding, without fear or
doubt.

Then the male passengers rushed to the boats in wild despair,
While the cries of the women and children rent the air ;
Oh, heaven ! such a scene ! 'twas enough to make one weep,
To see mothers trying to save their children that were fast
asleep.

Brave Captain Reeks stood on the bridge till the ship went
down,
With his eyes uplifted towards heaven, and on his face no frown ;
And some of the passengers jumped from the ship into the sea,
And tried hard to save their lives right manfully.

But the sufferings of the survivors are pitiful to hear,
And I think all Christian people for them will drop a tear,
Because the rowers of the boats were exhausted with damp and
cold ;
But the heroine of the wreck was Miss Greta Williams, be it
told.

She remained in an open boat with her fellow-passengers and
crew,
And sang "O rest in the Lord, and He will come to our rescue ;"
And for fourteen hours, they were rowing on the mighty deep,
And when each man was done with his turn he fell asleep.

And about six o'clock in the morning a man shrieked out,
"There's a sailing boat coming towards us without any doubt ;"
And before the sailing boat could get near, a steamer hove in
sight,
Which proved to be the steamer "Lynx," to their delight.

And they were conveyed to Guernsey without delay,
Poor souls, with their hearts in a state of joy and dismay ;
But alas ! more than eighty persons have been lost in the briny
deep,
But I hope their souls are now in heaven in safe keep.